

S.O. 21

Parliament that native people can call their own. The Commission's terms of reference include receiving and considering grievances from all parties concerned with respect to implementation of the Act; second, making recommendations with respect to implementation of the legislation, and third, submitting to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development a report on the Act's implementation, every two years. This Commission is one more step in the Government's plan to support the development of native people's autonomous government.

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THE LATE SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to pay tribute to a great feminist and humanist who died the day before yesterday, Simone de Beauvoir.

In addition to having been one of the foremost intellectual figures of the 20th century and an avant-garde militant for every radical cause, she is without a doubt a major figure of contemporary feminism.

Many passages from her brilliant essay, "The Second Sex", have kept their extraordinary resonance today, thirty-seven years later.

With great intelligence and sensitivity, Simone de Beauvoir delivered her response to Aristotle and Freud and others who saw women's inferiority as a result of human nature.

She demonstrated that one is not born a woman, one becomes one. The Western feminist movement is deeply indebted to her.

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● (1405)

[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner of Official Languages expressed his disappointment yesterday about the Government's lack of action on official languages.

There has been little action in the key areas of service to people in their chosen official language in ensuring equity in public service participation by the official language minorities, and in the use of French as the language of work.

The Government's lack of action has affected the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages. Last spring the committee was contemplating holding hearings in the regions, but this resolve collapsed in the fall. This failure to carry the flag into the provinces reflected the Government's lack of

energy on such vital federal-provincial matters as education in the minority official language. Deficit reduction conflicts with the national interest in these areas. Statements of good intention become empty protests when Governments do not find the means to demonstrate their resolve.

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[Translation]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

IMPROVEMENT OF PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS

Mr. Barry Moore (Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle): Mr. Speaker, ever since he was sworn in as Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees), our colleague has established a new policy based on fast service, generosity and courtesy.

Pension applications have been processed twice as fast since we came into office and the number of favourable responses has doubled.

Veterans now get higher benefits. Under a Pension Act amendment in force since January 1, 1986, the guiding principle is that pensions should increase at the same rate as a mixed salary.

Other improvements include higher deductions for casual earnings, longer disability allowances, extension of Aging Veterans Program benefits, and a number of other measures to help these people who served their country.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the many veterans in my riding of Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle fully appreciate these improvements which attest to our Government's gratefulness to them.

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[English]

TERRORISM

SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES ACTIONS

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, Americans are not warmongers. All over the world there is evidence of their concern for the poor and the needy. I saw the hospitals and the roads they built in Central America. Wherever tragedy strikes, they are there to provide help. They stand four-square against terrorism, hijacking, and the murdering of innocent travellers.

● (1410)

Terrorism has been succoured, encouraged, and promoted by Khadafy and his terrorist friends. In answer to the pleadings to cease killing innocent people, he answered with more bombings and threats. Well, enough is enough. The U.S.A. called his bluff. Now he knows and his people know, and the